

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 11-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled. New claims 12-17 have been added.

Specification

Minor changes have been made to the specification to place it in better form for U.S. practice.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 6-8 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Su (U.S. Patent No. 5,458,050) in view of Yang (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,322). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Su fails to show a plurality of judging devices. Therefore, the Examiner relies on the Yang reference and alleges that it discloses a control roller that includes a thermistor for detecting the surface temperature of the control roller and a thermistor for terminating power to each roller when the surface temperature of the control roller exceeds a predetermined surface temperature, and a comparator responsive to the thermistor for adjusting the power applied to the heating element of each roller.

Applicants submit that even assuming that the Examiner's analysis and interpretation of the cited references are reasonable, which Applicants do not admit, Yang does not disclose "a water level sensor that detects a level of the water contained in the pot," "a temperature sensor that detects a temperature inside the pot," and "a controller that detects whether the heater has been exposed from the water based on an output from the water level sensor and an output from the temperature sensor," as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, even assuming that Su and Yang can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one skilled in the art would, at best, modify Su by providing the control roller (having a thermistor) of

Yang to detect the temperature of an element inside the compartment 20 or to terminate power when the surface temperature of the element exceeds a predetermined surface temperature, and would not disclose or suggest the “water level sensor,” the “temperature sensor,” and the “controller,” as recited in claim 1.

Claims 7, 8, and 11, variously dependent on claim 6, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 6.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 9-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Su Yang, and further in view of Alvarez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,479,707). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

Claims 12-18, variously dependent on claim 6, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 6.

Support for the features recited in claim 12 is disclosed in Fig. 3 of the present application.

Support for the features recited in claims 13-15 is disclosed at least in Figs. 4(a) of the present application.

Support for the features recited in claim 16 is disclosed in paragraph [0078] of the specification of the present application.

Support for the features recited in claim 17 is disclosed in Fig. 4(b) of the present application.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

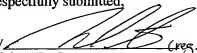
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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